

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT  
COMMISSION ON MINORITIES IN THE JUDICIARY (COM)  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 31, 2013**

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Arizona State Courts Building – Rooms 230  
Phoenix, Arizona

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**Present:** Mike Baumstark, Patricia Ferguson-Bohnee, Frankie Jones, Roxana Matiella, Judge Maurice Portley, Judge Roxanne Song Ong, John Vivian.

**Telephonically:** Judge Maria Avilez, Paul Bennett, Judge Mitchell Kalauli, Niccole King, Bob Kirk, Judge Leslie Miller, Kendall Rhyne, Judge Dan Slayton, Judge Penny Willrich, Marian Zapata-Rossa.

**Absent/Excused:** Diandra Benally, Paul Bennett, Judge Alma Vildosola.

**Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Staff:** Theresa Barrett (Court Services Division, AOC), Kym Lopez (Court Services Division, AOC), Susan Pickard (Court Services Division, AOC).

**Presenters/Guests:** Judge Laura Lowery (Phoenix Municipal Court), Carol Mitchell (Court Services Division, AOC), David Redpath (Juvenile Justice Services Division, AOC).

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## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **1. Welcome and Opening Remarks:**

With a quorum present, the January 31, 2013 meeting of the Commission on Minorities (COM) was called to order by Judge Roxanne Song Ong, Chair. Member and staff introductions were made around the room and on the phone.

### **2. Approval of Minutes:**

The draft minutes of the October 11, 2012 meeting were presented for approval. John Vivian requested a change to page 3, item 7, line 7 to read that the average length of stay is 6.7 months.

**MOTION:** Mike Baumstark motioned to approve the October 11, 2012 meeting minutes with the correction.

**SECOND:** Judge Maurice Portley.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS**

### **3. Language Access Update**

Carol Mitchell, Caseflow Management Unit, Court Services Division of the AOC, highlighted important elements of the language access plans submitted by courts in response to AO#2011-96. She also updated COM members on the available resources created by the AOC to assist courts statewide in enhancing language access

services. Carol closed her update by sharing information on the new remote court interpreter pilot project. The goal of this project is to utilize technology (i.e., video conferencing equipment) to remotely connect an interpreter in one location and a court in another location which are separated by significant distance. The pilot project is intended to provide connection for short proceedings (not jury trials), where interpreters have to drive for an amount of time longer than they actually would be interpreting in court. Many interpreters drive over 30 minutes each way for a 15 minute proceeding. Other highlights included:

- The initial pilot project is with Yuma County. The AOC is in process of creating an interpreter room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of state courts building. Once other superior courts come online (after pilot), the plan is to allow interpreters located in Phoenix area to come to the Supreme Court building in lieu of driving to Yuma or other remote sites. The AOC would provide the broadcast site, which would allow counties to establish a regionalized approach to connect satellite justice courts to the superior court.
- The pilot allows 2 way video for best reception and dual purpose for American Sign Language (ASL cases)
- The AOC anticipates equipment and testing to be complete within the next 2 months

Judge Song Ong thanked Carol for her presentation and invited her back to present updates on the court interpreter pilot project, and other language access initiatives, at future meetings.

#### **4. Report Card Update**

David Redpath, Juvenile Justice Services Division of the AOC, provided members with background about the current Disproportionate Minority Contact Report Card, how it has evolved over time, and the Commission's past involvement in the production of the report card. Mr. Redpath then facilitated a discussion with members about the bi-annual report card and its future direction.

Following his presentation, Mr. Redpath requested assistance from members to provide recommendations on how to restructure the Disproportionate Minority Report Card. His personal recommendations include appending county level data into the Report, making it more utilitarian, and employing the same methodology used for prior report cards so the data could be completed to the year 2002, along with creating an exciting new product that can be placed on the Web every two years. John Vivian and Roxana Matiella volunteered to assist David on this collaborative project.

#### **5. Update on Minority Bar Convention Sessions**

Judge Laura Lowery provided members with an update on planning efforts for the upcoming Minority Bar Convention. Specifically, Judge Lowery asked members to provide input for the further development of the two judicial appointment sessions scheduled for April 5, 2013.

Judge Lowery was particularly interested in identifying appropriate written materials for the workshop sessions. She noted that recommended materials for the sessions would need to be submitted to her by March 1, 2013.

**ACTION:** AOC staff will work with Judge Lowery and her co-chair, Lisa Maxie-Mullins, to compile an updated packet of the Commission's judicial appointment workshop handouts.

## **6. Strategic Planning**

Theresa Barrett, Court Services Division of the AOC, explained that the Arizona Judicial Branch has begun the development of its Strategic Agenda 2015-2020. Ms. Barrett discussed the role that members can play in the development of the next strategic agenda and asked members to participate in "brainstorming" so that their suggestions can be provided to the Arizona Judicial Council at its June meeting.

A member suggested using the findings from the soon to be released report Dr. Rodriguez was commissioned to prepare to generate future strategic goals. To this end, it was recommended that she be invited to a future meeting to present the final report's findings.

**ACTION:** Staff will obtain a copy of Dr. Rodriguez' report from Mr. Redpath and disseminate it to members. Staff will also explore Dr. Rodriguez' availability to present to the COM at their April meeting.

Members agreed to spend time at the April 18, 2013 COM meeting to discuss project ideas for the strategic agenda. In the interim, members were encouraged to submit their ideas for goals/projects/initiatives to AOC staff for compilation. It was noted, this list of ideas would serve as a starting point for members' April brainstorming.

**ACTION:** To help jump start the process, AOC staff will send out previously proposed goals for the COM to all members.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Commission on Minorities will be on Thursday, April 18, 2013 at the Arizona State Courts Building in room 230 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

### **8. Good of the Order/Call to the Public**

None present.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.